

Minutes of P.C.C. meeting Thursday 2nd July 2026 at 7p.m. via Zoom.

1. Welcome and prayers.

Meeting was chaired by Rev.Nick who welcomed everyone and meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Richard.

2. Present: Revd. Nick Andrewes, Revd. Richard McEwan, Revd .Zahra Shafiei, Ann Batchelor, Janet Campbell, Mercy Ekhoesuehi, Graham Lees, Kathy Lees Nasreen Masih.

Apologies. Abigail Okbesuehi.

3. Minutes of meeting of 30th April 2026.

3.1) Accepted as a true account. Proposed by Janet , seconded by Graham and passed unanimously.

3.2) Matters Arising.(not on the agenda elsewhere)

John still needs to receive his gift and Zahra will find a way to contact him about this.

Bolton Stained Glass Company are coming on the 9th July to refit the window in the organ chamber.

Janet has contacted Dmitrou to check if he is taking holidays so that we can cover for the cleaning but he has no holidays planned.

4. Mission Action Plan

4.1 GROWING.

We have received a grant of £2000 from Oldham Parish Church Education Fund and £2500 from the Racial Justice fund for the wall mounted TV screens and a Faculty has been awarded. The total cost for this work is £8500. Hopefully Benefact Trust will make up the difference of £4000.

£500 has been granted from the Diocesan Fund for the “Bring and Share Meals”.

4.2 NURTURING.

Toyin is willing to attend a meeting about leading intercessions.

Feedback about the Lent Course study booklet “Fit for Life” was positive.

Members from St.Thomas and St. Paul`s churches attended the course and everyone contributed. For Lent next year we could consider another booklet for discussion.

We will discuss the possibility of a Christmas Experience 2026 at our next P.C.C. meeting.

4.3 SERVING

A grant for £10,000 to support us in replacing the gates has come to our attention, the criteria being that the gates are listed, which ours are.

There has been an educational visit to St.Thomas church from Brian Clark Academy which Richard hosted. 90 pupils attended and it went well.

HAF holiday club went well during Easter. HAF in the summer want to use the church for specific activities like martial arts and cooking.

Hosting Gardening. Shaz from Chat and Chai is encouraging her ladies group to do some planting around the church in July, with monies from their grant.

We aim to make a conscious effort to invite the Baptism families to our Christmas services.

Bring and Share Meals. The next one is planned for Harvest Sunday on Sunday 4th October. We will invite the Brethren In Christ friends to this service and meal.

4.4 SUSTAINABILITY

To be considered in Agenda Item 8.

5. **Vicar`s Update.**

- ☐ Feedback about Confirmation Service held on May 10th was positive. The service was very well attended and Bishop Mark`s leadership and rapport with everyone was appreciated.
 - ☐ Greater diversity of music during services. Nick encouraged us to think about this with our own ideas. Parveen and Adeena have a keen interest in music and their input will be sought too. One tune in different languages???? Songs to share??? Pre –recorded music???
- Angela Knowles, retiring head of St.Thomas` School, is having a service in church on 6th July. We are invited.

6. **Correspondence.**

None.

7. **Parish Officers.**

Ann is willing to become Electoral Roll Officer. Proposed by Kathy and seconded by Janet.

8. **A Stocktake of St.Thomas Church (to be continued at the next meeting.)**

Missional Sustainability – looking at our mission as a parish: schools, community, evangelism.

We talked about how we can attract and keep more people, recognising that we are in a diverse and transient community with the challenges this involves. Many people around us face daily struggles but individual follow up (invites to shared lunches, Christmas services etc.) are important for supporting integration into the church community. The fact that we are a welcoming community is proved by the fact that some regular members travel quite a distance to worship with us. We have also had examples of Catholic attendees who were unclear about the Church of England's distinct identity and who have probably gone on to attend a Catholic church.

SWOT analysis. – Strengths Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats, - to be considered in the future.

Financial Sustainability. - looking at our finances and cash flow in the short ,medium and long term.

Nick discussed significant financial concerns with the parish's funds, explaining the distinction between unrestricted, restricted and designated monies. He highlighted that rising gas bills ,particularly due to missing window panes, have created financial strain. The parish is experiencing declining finances, year over year due to decreased congregational size and the time it takes for new members to begin regular giving. We are fortunate though to have generous supporters who continue to give even after leaving the church.

Designated Funds.

Previous P.C.C.'s have chosen that monies will be used for a specific purpose suitable for that time period, but as a current P.C.C. we can re-designate these monies to address our current funds. As such, it was proposed that we re-designate monies from the Building Fund to our General Fund. Proposed by Nick and seconded by Graham and passed unanimously.

It was decided to use monies from the Decoration Fund for decoration after re-plastering.

Organ Restoration Fund is restricted but can be used to cover the costs of the broken windows in the organ chamber , as not to do so would be detrimental to the organ.

Bequests and Donations Fund.

This is to be retained as it is considered to be meaningful and attractive to those wishing to donate to the church. These monies can be used, if necessary, where match funding is required. If money is left as a bequest , it should be used to honour the preferences and spirit of the deceased benefactor.

SWOT.

Congregational Sustainability. –looking at our congregational size,age profile, and volunteers.

SWOT

Ministerial Sustainability.

Do we have clergy, ministers, to conduct services now and in the future?
SWOT.

9. Reports

9.1 Safeguarding

P.C.C.members need to do the course.

9.2 Use of Church.

To consider at next meeting.

9.3 Finance.

We discussed the challenge of heating costs, particularly since our new contract. We discussed strategies to reduce heating costs including filling unused heating days with bookings.

9.4 Mission Community.

One aspect being considered is the question of how safeguarding leads can work together.

9.5 Health and Safety.

A new plug has been bought for the T.V. with a longer lead.

10. Dates

Bring and Share meal at Harvest on 4th October.

Next P.C.C. meeting on Thursday 3rd September at 7p.m via Zoom.

11. Future Agenda Items.

Eco Church- next steps.

Church Porch?

What to do about trees in the grounds – replacing the hawthorns? - bush or tree or both?

As our homework, we are to do a SWOT analysis on Sustainability and also how to increase our diversity in music during the services.

Nick closed in prayer.